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Editorial & Staff Directory

Publisher: Lynne McNair Editor: Kirk McNair

Assistant to the Publisher: Vera Dowdle Circulation Director: Mary Ellen Palardy

Photo Editor: Barry Fikes Artist: Dan Proctor

Contributing Writers: Todd Anderson, John Barnes, Lewis Each, Eunice Elliott, Donna Fromme, Donald F. Staffo. Craig Threlkeld, Andrew Varble II

Contributing Photographers: Robert Sutton, Steven Fikes, Spectrum-Southeast, University of Alabama

Computer Consultant: Stephen Bushery, ComSouth

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Barry Fikes Photo



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JANUARY '98/BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide

Whole Lot Of Shake-Up Going On

by Kirk McNair

The DuBose staff gets a makeover after 4-7 season; more assistants still to be hired

here are two areas of particular interest to Alabama football fans these days, and they are somewhat interrelated. One is Crimson Tide Head Coach Mike DuBose filling out his coaching staff. The other is the continuing recruiting effort that has garnered an unprecedented number of players announcing before mid-December they intend to sign with Alabama.

Thus far, DuBose has announced two additions to his staff, half the number he needs to appoint in order to have a full complement. Following Bama's disastrous 1997 season of 4-7, DuBose fired four coaches—Offensive Coordinator/Quarter-backs Coach Bruce Arians, Assistant Head Coach/Wide Receivers Coach Woody McCorvey (since hired to coach wide receivers at South Carolina), Secondary Coach Curley Hallman and Special Teams Coach Danny Pearman.

Thus far, Bama has replaced those four with two coaches. DuBose has hired Ronnie Cottrell from Florida State and Ronnie Harbison from Clemson. Cottrell will serve as assistant head coach and tutor tight ends, while Harbison will be secondary coach.

The appointment of Cottrell raised at least a couple of questions. One pertains to Dabo Swinney, who coached Bama's tight ends last year. Best guess is that Swinney will handle wide receivers, as he did in 1996. However, the primary question is whether Cottrell will be Alabama's recruiting coordinator. Officially, Alabama does not have a recruiting coordinator, although for the past few weeks Randy Ross (the recruiting coordinator from 1990 through 1996) has been activated as an assistant coach for recruiting purposes and has probably handled the recruiting coordinator's duties.

Cottrell has been much better known for his work as recruiting coordinator at Florida State than he has as a position coach. He had coached middle linebackers for a couple of years before taking over as tight ends coach in 1996, but he has been recruiting coordinator since 1990. As the recruiting



Neil Callaway

coordinator, Cottrell helped FSU land topfive recruiting classes in each of his eight seasons. He assembled what were considered the nation's top groups in 1993, 1994 and last February, while his 1991 and 1995 recruiting classes were ranked second in the nation.

Last year his recruiting class included Travis Minor and David Warren, named by USA Today as the top offensive and defensive prospects in the nation. It was the second time Cottrell had pulled off the feat of recruiting both the number one offensive and defensive player in the nation. In 1991 he had recruited Derrick Brooks and Marquette Smith.

A native of Brewton, Cottrell was graduated from T.R. Miller High School and then attended Jefferson Davis Junior College before graduating from Troy State University in 1983. He began his coaching career at T.R. Miller in 1980, was an assistant at Troy State in 1981 and 1982, then moved back into the

prep ranks as head coach at Kinston (1983-84), Flomaton (1985-87) and W.S. Neal (1988). He led Flomaton to back-to-back perfect seasons in 1986-87.

He was a graduate assistant at Florida State in 1989, assisting current South Carolina Head Coach Brad Scott in recruiting, before becoming recruiting coordinator in 1990.

Cottrell will be on the job in Tuscaloosa before Christmas.

Harbison will not join the Bama staff until after Clemson plays Auburn in the Peach Bowl on January 2.

Harbison, 38, will coach the Crimson Tide secondary. He has held that position for the past three years at Clemson, two under current Tide Defensive Coordinator Ellis Johnson, who came to Bama from Clemson prior to this season. A native of Shelby, North Carolina, Harbison played collegiately at Gardner-Webb and with Buffalo of the NFL and Boston and New Orleans in the United States Football League. He has coached at Gardner-Webb and Texas El-Paso and in minor league pro football and Arena Football.

Clemson led the Atlantic Coast Conference in pass defense in 1995 and was third in the ACC this season.

One area of interest has to be players being recruited by Florida State and Alabama and Clemson and Alabama. One of the nation's top prospects, offensive lineman Brett Williams of Kissimmee, Florida, has long been considered a battle between FSU and Bama. Cottrell was reportedly recruiting Williams for the Seminoles. Among those on the Alabama recruiting list who have been listed as deciding between Alabama and Clemson are two top defensive backs, Robert Bean, a 6-3, 185-pounder at Georgia Military, and David Bleisath, a 6-3, 215-pounder at Sequoyah High School in Canton, Georgia.

There are likely other high school and junior college players who have been considering Alabama and either FSU or Clemson whose decision may be affected by these hirings.

here has been much interest in others who might assume coaching responsibilities at Alabama, which may explain some of the interesting speculation. Technically, Alabama still needs to replace Arians, who was offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach, and (if Swinney is going to take over wide receivers) Pearman, who was special teams coach. However, that's not necessarily entirely correct.

For instance, Alabama may hire a quarterbacks coach who is not the offensive coordinator. Neil Callaway, who came to Alabama as offensive line coach, had substantially greater responsibilities in his previous job. At Houston he was assistant head coach and offensive coordinator, in addition to offensive line coach. It would surprise no one if Callaway was elevated to offensive coordinator with Alabama adding a quarterbacks coach.

Ordinarily, a coordinator is not a czar. The game plan is devised by the entire offensive or defensive staff with the head coach having final say. If there is a downside to naming the offensive line coach offensive coordinator it is that it could present a perception problem to high-profile skill position players. Fortunately, Alabama already has commitments from prominent prospects at quarterback, wide receiver and running back.

Whether or not Callaway is named offensive coordinator, Bama needs a quarterbacks coach. Among those whose names have been mentioned are some quite familiar, some not so familiar. Most interesting of those has been Pat Sullivan, the former Auburn Heisman Trophy winner and later coach who was recently fired as head coach at TCU. One note giving that choice some legitimacy is the report that DuBose had agreed to serve as Sullivan's defensive coordinator had Sullivan been able to accept the head job at LSU a couple of years ago.

John Reaves, the former Florida quarterback and later an assistant coach under Steve Spurrier (but not Spurrier's quarterback coach or offensive coordinator), recently resigned as "passing game coordinator" at South Carolina. Also leaving the Gamecocks was Offensive Coordinator John Eason, and both of those names have surfaced.

Former Alabama quarterback Jeff Rutledge, who reportedly turned down a job as quarterbacks coach under Bill Parcells in the National Football League to remain as quarterback coach at Vanderbilt, has been mentioned. Rutledge is handicapped by Vandy having such poor quarterback and offensive play, but has a great NFL reputation. Family considerations (children in school in Nashville) may keep Rutledge out of the Alabama picture.

A more likely candidate may be Steve Ensminger, the former LSU quarterback who has been a quarterback coach at Texas A&M and is now at Clemson. And a name unfamiliar to most, but emerging as a possibility, is Charlie Stubbs, formerly an assistant coach at Memphis and now quarterbacks coach at UNLV. His freshman quarterback led the WAC in passing last fall.

Much was made of FSU Offensive Coordinator and Quarterbacks Coach Mark Richt being a candidate. That may or may not be true. Richt did all of the talking, saying that he had had a conversation with DuBose about the job, then a couple of days later saying he would not accept the job as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Alabama. There is no reason to doubt that DuBose talked to Richt about those positions, and just as much reason to believe that DuBose, who has never personally met Richt, would have offered him either or both of those jobs without having met him and talked to him personally.

There would have been good reason for Richt to accept a job at Alabama. At FSU

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only Head Coach Bobby Bowden gets credit for offensive success. A man who could move Alabama's offense into the modern era would get all the credit, as it has been nearly a decade (when Homer Smith was offensive coordinator under Bill Curry) since Bama's offense has been effective.

Noel Mazzone, offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Ole Miss, was another whose name was brought up, but he's likely to stay with the Rebels, sharing in the big bucks raised by Mississippi faithful to keep Head Coach Tommy Tuberville from going to Arkansas.

There is also a chance Bama is looking for something other than a special teams coach. There are numerous reports of Ellis Johnson going back to the linebacker position, where he had previously coached. Jeff Rouzie would thus either remain as a second linebacker coach or, perhaps, take over special teams. In that case Alabama would be looking for a defensive line coach.

There is also the possibility that Alabama will revert to the 3-4 defense, in which case Bama might want one defensive line coach and two linebackers coaches.

One of the first names to emerge as a potential addition to the staff following the dismissal of the four Tide coaches was that of Northeast Louisiana Defensive Line Coach Charles Shipp.

The most interesting name to emerge was that of former Tide player and Auburn Defensive Line Coach Wayne Hall. Hall, a teammate of DuBose at Alabama, was fired at Auburn a few years ago and has become a contractor. He has been quoted as saying that he is not interested in being an Alabama football coach.

Mickey Andrews, who has been a very successful defensive coordinator at Florida State for many years, was briefly mentioned as a possibility for Alabama, but that makes little sense. Andrews has been at FSU far longer than he was as a player at Alabama in the early 1960s. Bobby Wallace was also mentioned as a possible defensive assistant, but the longtime North Alabama head coach was named to that position at Temple.

There were also reports that DuBose had contacted Lawson Holland, a special teams coach at Florida. A couple of Alabama high school coaches, Waldon Tucker at Fayette County and Ben Harris at Mobile Blount, were also in the rumor mill. (Harris later emerged as a leading candidate as head coach at Alabama State.)

The Tennessee spectre has also been raised. No fewer than three Tennessee coaches were mentioned as possibilities for Bama jobs, but sources close to the Vols indicated that Tennessee would do whatever it took to keep from losing coaches to Alabama. The fact Tennessee has done that once is compelling, and also good reason for Bama not to talk to Vols coaches, unless DuBose is just interested in getting raises for those assistants.

A year ago DuBose probably felt betrayed when, after extensive discussion with Tennessee Offensive Coordinator and Quarterbacks Coach David Cutcliffe, an Alabama graduate, Cutcliffe announced that he was staying at Tennessee with a big raise and a three-year contract. It was highly unlikely DuBose would have contacted Cutcliffe again this year.

It also seemed unlikely that Bama would go after Tennessee's Rodney Garner, who said days before the Southeastern Conference Championship Game, that he "would always be an Auburn man." Garner was formerly a player and then an assistant coach at Auburn, but was fired in an Auburn staff shake-up a few years ago.

Also mentioned as a possibility as moving from Tennessee to Alabama was Steve Caldwell, who coaches Tennessee's defensive ends.



'BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/JANUARY '98

Alabama Teams Build For Future

by Kirk McNair

Here are some more who elected to sign with Bama

The early signing period in mid-November was very good to most eligible sports at Alabama. That early signing period is available to the winter and spring sports, not the fall sports (football, soccer and volleyball).

We announced a number of those early signees in our December issue, but because The University is not allowed to announce additions until the actual signed scholarship is returned to the school, there were a number of later signees in the early period. The winter and spring sports have another signing period beginning in April.

The most-watched sport in the early period is men's basketball. Tide Head Coach David Hobbs and his staff got off to a great start when it was announced that the state's top prospect, Sam Haginas of UMS-Wright Prep in Mobile, had selected the Crimson Tide.

It had also been expected that Bama might add some more players to the men's basket-ball squad in the early period, and that proved to be true. Alabama added forwards Cedric Patton of Huntsville Grissom and Mark Kimbrough of Dawson, Georgia, by way of Pensacola (Florida) Junior College.

Patton is a 6-7, 175-pounder who averaged 11.7 points and 5.5 rebounds for Coach Ronnie Stapler at Grissom a year ago. His team, which features nationally-prominent junior star Marvin Stone, reached the finals of last year's 6A state tournament. Patton hit 51.7 per cent from the field and 38 per cent from three-point range last year. Early this year he was averaging over 21 points per game. He is an excellent student who considered Vanderbilt, Virginia, Arkansas and Ole Miss.

Kimbrough is described by his junior college coach, Paul Swanson, as "a mini-Charles Barkley." Kimbrough is 6-4, 235. In the early going this season he averaged 25.8 points and 11 rebounds per game. He was ranked as one of the nation's top 30 junior college prospects by *The Sporting News*.

Among those who will be available for signing in the late period is one of the nation's top players, Rashard Lewis, a 6-10 center at Alief, Texas. He has reportedly narrowed a list that once included Arizona, Arkansas, Kentucky and Michigan to Alabama and nearby Houston. A top junior college player who had been considering Bama is also expected to be available in

April. He is Desmond Walker, 6-8, of Greenville, currently playing at Florida Junior College in Jacksonville.

Rick Moody had previously announced five new signees for the highly-regarded Crimson Tide women's basketball program. He has seven scholarships to give and has now given six of those.

The latest addition to the Bama program is Shun Hunter, a 6-0 forward from Pensacola High School. Last year she led her team to a 33-0 record and the state championship.

"We are extremely pleased to be adding Shun," Moody said. "She is very athletic and is an outstanding player going to the basket. She fits in with our need to sign athletic and versatile players."

Previously announced as signing with the Alabama women's program were Shondra Johnson, LaNisha Cartwell, Nikki Prescott, Beth Vice and Kaunda Williams.

oach Kalum Haack is preparing for his second season as Alabama's softball coach and he's added three new signees for Bama's third softball team. The early signing period additions are Shelly Laird, Suzanne Olcott and Kasey Whitehead.

"We were very fortunate to sign these three young ladies," Haack said. "They were our top choices throughout the recruiting process. All three fill a need for us in 1999. Shelly gives us a power pitcher, Suzanne a quick infielder, and Kasey a power hitter. They will be a great group to watch over the next four years."

Laird, a pitcher from Spring, Texas, is considered to be one of the best in Texas. She led her summer team to a seventh place finish at the American Softball Association's Gold Nationals. She averaged 12 strikeouts a game for Klein Oak High School and was ranked second in strikeouts in the greater Houston area. She also considered Nebraska, LSU and Florida.

Olcott is one of the best fastpitch players in Alabama. She has played both shortstop and third base for Vestavia Hills High School, as well as for her summer team. Olcott had committed to Alabama early last summer. She helped her team to second place in state 6A competition last year.

Whitehead was selected for All-America



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honors twice by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association while playing softball for Roswell (Georgia) High School. A pitcher as well as a utility player, she is considered the best player in Georgia. She also considered Auburn and Florida State.

Coach Jim Wells' 11 signees for baseball were all announced earlier. They are infielder Brent Boyd, catcher-infielder Jeremy Brown, first baseman-outfielder Dave Callahan, pitcher Shane Henderson, pitcher Keith Long, pitcher Kevin Marzion, catcheroutfielder Rock Mills, outfielder Scott McClanahan, pitcher Frankie McGill, pitcher Scott Murphy and infielder-outfielder Eric Smallwood.

A labama has separate track programs with Harvey Glance head coach of the men's team and Sandy Fowler in charge of the women's program. Both had signees in the early period.

The five signees for the men's track and field team are Jason Blair, Chad Covington, Randy Farr, Jeremy Taylor and Cori Loving. Blair of Rockport, Indiana, and Covington of The Woodlands, Texas, are both nationally-ranked high school pole vaulters. Covington and Blair are both ranked in the nation's top ten going into their senior seasons.

Farr, Taylor and Loving are all junior college transfers. Farr won district titles in the 200 meters in 1995 and 1996 and was a member of the district champion 4x400 relay team. He also won the regional title at 400 in 1996. Last year at Barton County Community College in Great Bend, Kansas, he was an All-America as a member of the 4x400 relay team. Loving is Farr's teammate on the 4x400 team at Barton. Additionally, last year he finished second at the Junior College National Meet in the 400.

Taylor, who currently attends Wallace State Community College, is an All-America long jumper with a best mark of 25-4. He was also a member of the 4x100 relay team. Wallace State won the national junior college championship last year.

New members of the women's team are Brandit Cooper, Ne-juan Shaul and Lashiba Barnes.

Cooper also attends Barton County Community College. As a prep star at William Penn in Philadelphia she was four times runner-up in the state in the triple jump, two-time 55 meters hurdles champion and winner of the 100-meter hurdles. She finished in the top five in the 55 hurdles, 100 hurdles, and triple jump at the national junior college meet last year.

Shaul is at Meridian (Mississippi) Junior College and was national champion in the 55 hurdles last year. She was third in the 100 hurdles and a member of the 4x400 relay team. She's a native of New Orleans and participated at Warren Easton High School.

Barnes finished third in the 100 hurdles in the Florida State High School meet last year. She was state champion in the 300 hurdles



Oren Azrad

and ran a leg on the winning 4x100 relay team. She competes for Palm Beach Lakes High School in West Palm Beach, Florida.

The women's golf team of Coach Betty Palmer added a couple of new players. "Our goal in recruiting is to sign players who combine strong golf skills with a solid commitment in the classroom," said Palmer. "I believe both these players fit that mold."

The newcomers are Lacy Shelton who is the defending state junior champion. She helped guide Fort Payne High School to runner-up finishes in the state high school tournament the past two years. She is also an honor student.

Sarah Johnston is a native of Benton, Louisiana, and she has played a number of national junior golf tournaments. She is ranked 18th in the nation in junior golf and reached the semifinals of this year's United States Junior Girls Championship. Sarah, the sister of current Bama sophomore Elizabeth, led Airline High School to the state title in 1996. She also ranks first academically in her high school.

omen's tennis coach Jenny Mainz has signed her first Crimson Tide recruiting class and it has a definite Southern feel. The first-year mentor signed a trio of student-athletes including instate prospect Becca Baum of Gadsden. Baum's future teammates, Kathleen Mele and Jenny Ketchum, hail from Augusta, Georgia, and Franklin, Tennessee, respectively.

Baum won the Alabama State singles championship in both 1995 and 1997. She made it to the round of 32 at the 1997 National Clay Court championships. Baum plays for former Alabama men's tennis coach Tommy Wade at Birmingham Country Club. She helped lead Westbrook Christian High School to the Sectional

championships and a fourth place state finish in 1997. In addition to tennis, Baum is a Westbrook starter on the basketball and volleyball teams. She is a member of the Beta Club and National Honor Society. She comes from an athletic family. Her father, Billy Baum, played basketball at Rochester College and played on the Puerto Rican Olympic Team. Baum's sister, Elyse, plays tennis for Berry College in Rome, Georgia, while her mother, Beverly, played tennis for Ashland University.

Mele is a three-year region and state doubles high school champion at Augusta Prep School. She went undefeated in singles and doubles during her high school career. She played juniors tennis for Craig Jones at Houndslake Country Club. She won the sportsmanship award at the Gator Bowl Tournament in Florida. In addition to tennis, she played soccer, volleyball and basketball at Augusta Prep. Her great-grandfather, George Sancken, Sr., played quarterback at Georgia

back at Georgia.

Ketchum was named the 1997 Tennessee
Mid-state Player of the Year. She was named
all-State in 1996 and 1997 and was named
Fred J. Page High School tennis MVP in

1995, 1996, and 1997. Also ran cross country. She plays Juniors tennis for Hakan Darud at Maryland Farms Athletics Club. The Most Outstanding Female Player for the state of Tennessee in 1996 and 1997, Ketchum has been ranked as high as 70th in singles and 8th in doubles nationally. A member of the student council, she is the editor of the Page High School yearbook

and was the junior class president.

Swimming and Diving Coach Chuck Horton signed a pair of swimmers who will help his squads immediately. Kate Wallis and Oren Azrad were to join the Crimson Tide women's and men's teams respectively for the spring semester.

Wallis hails from Mt. Martha, Australia. She is captain of the Toorak College swimming and volleyball teams. She competed at the 1996 Australian Olympic Trials. She finaled in the 400 IM at Australia's World Championship Trials. She has competed at the national championships since 1993. A strong IMer, Wallis should also give Alabama depth in a variety of events due to her versatility.

Azrad joins the Tide from Ness-ziona Israel. He attended Mekif Dati High School. He is the Israeli 100-meter freestyle record-holder. He helped lead Marc Peleg's Dolphins Swim Club to a second place finish at the 1997 Israeli National Championships. He competed for Israel at the 1997 European Championships. He owns the second fastest 200-meter freestyle time in Israeli history.

Also announced in the earlier signings were six gymnasts. They are Andree Pickens, Natalie Barrington, Whitney Morgan, Krista Gole, Raegan Tomsek, and Alexa Martinez.

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They Never Gave Up

by Kirk McNair

Although 1997 was not a good football season for Alabama, seniors are part of history

t wasn't exactly Winston Churchill extolling the importance of the Royal Air Force in World War II, but one had to agree with Alabama Head Football Coach Mike DuBose's assessment of his 1997 senior class: "They had to pay a price that was

much, much too high in this transition year."

Although the 1997 season will go down as one of the least successful in Crimson Tide history, DuBose said, "The senior class has been very important to us. They never gave

up. They came to work each Monday with a good attitude."

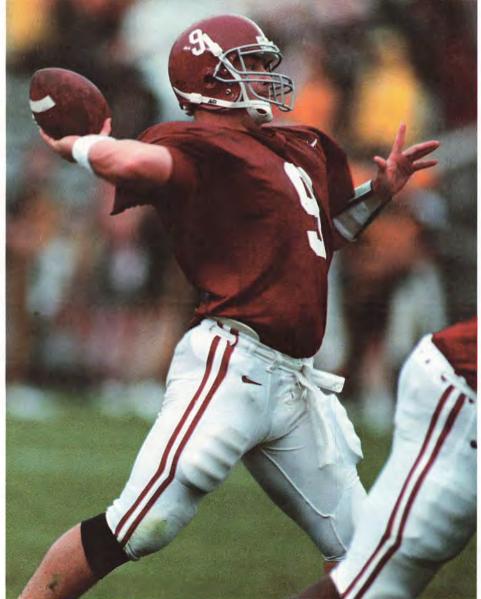
As Bama's poor season unfolded, there was a hue and cry from some fans to bench the seniors and build for the future. In theory, that might be the correct action. However, a football team is made up of young men who have worked for the right to represent their school. DuBose, correctly, did not bend.

At the end of every football season, there are those who point to the senior class and rate the players. There is a temptation to categorize players, the stars at one end of the spectrum, the busts at the other. However, there are no busts on an Alabama football team. Any man who stays on the practice field for four or five years has been a success. It is true that some players earn accolades on Saturdays in the games, but those who are not starring, perhaps not even playing, are doing their part for the team on Saturdays.

This team, as all Alabama football teams, has some who are stars, some who have been known as players only to their family and friends, teammates and coaches.

Prior to the final game of the season, the squad elected four permanent captains. They were tailback Curtis Alexander and tight end Rod Rutledge on offense and linebacker Paul Pickett and cornerback Deshea Townsend on defense. They will take part in ceremonies during A-Day activities in April in which their hand- and foot-prints will be added to those of previous captains around Denny Chimes.

In addition to the four permanent captains, a handful of seniors also served as captains for various games. They included quarterback Freddie Kitchens, strong safety Andre Short, defensive tackle Eric Kerley, fullback Ed Scissum, quarterback Lance Tucker, wide receiver Chad Goss, offensive



Freddie Kitchens ended his Alabama career ranked among the all-time Crimson Tide leaders in all passing categories. Kitchens did not suffer an interception in his final 135 attempts, second best in Alabama history.

Barry Fikes Photo

guard Will Friend, tailback Dennis Riddle, and defensive tackle Heath Panks.

n February 6 the Alabama football team will be honored at its team banquet. The 26 seniors are the focus of the banquet. Those who will be recognized for their contributions to Alabama football are:

Thad Abernathy, wide receiver, Enterprise; Curtis Alexander, tailback, Memphis; Atokie Bowman, wide receiver, Bigbee; Travis Crim, strong safety, Clanton; Lee Ferguson, tight end/snapper, Albertville; Kevin Flowers, defensive end, Troy; Will Friend, offensive guard, Philadelphia, Mississippi; Chad Goss, wide receiver, Warner Robins, Georgia; Matt Harrison, center, Dadeville; Joel Holliday, offensive/defensive tackle, Six Mile, South Carolina; Eric Kerley, defensive tackle, Birmingham; Freddie Kitchens, quarterback, Attalla; Brenon Meadows, offensive guard, Birmingham;

Heath Panks, defensive tackle, Slidell, Louisiana; Paul Pickett, linebacker, LaGrange, Georgia; Michael Ray, offensive tackle, Boaz; Dennis Riddle, tailback, Tuscaloosa; Rod Rutledge, tight end, Birmingham; Ed Scissum, fullback, Attalla; Andre Short, strong safety, LaGrange, Georgia; Chris Sign, offensive guard,

Arlington, Texas; Josh Swords, offensive guard, Brentwood, Tennessee; Deshea Townsend, cornerback, Batesville, Mississippi; Lance Tucker, quarterback, Fayette; Edgar Walker, defensive end, Dothan; and Robert Warnock, wide receiver, Birmingham.

There have been a few honors for Bama seniors this year. Curtis Alexander was named Southeastern Conference Offensive Player of the Week for his performance in Bama's victory over Ole Miss. He and Freddie Kitchens were both named players of the game in various television appearances. Brenon Meadows was selected to the All-Walk-On Team by Sports Illustrated.

It's not a record, but Deshea Townsend and Will Friend both had 36 career starts in their Bama careers. Dennis Riddle finished his career as number two all-time in career carries and number four in career yards. Curtis Alexander joined the 1,000-yard club for his career during his senior season. Freddie Kitchens ranks among Alabama passing leaders in attempts, completions and yards and did not suffer an interception in his final 135 attempts, second best streak in Tide history.

While Alabama did not have a good record in 1997, the senior class was part of teams that extended Alabama's national records for bowl appearances and bowl victories and added to the number of all-time victories that keeps Bama among the top winners in history.

Here are some notes about a few of the seniors as reported by Alabama's office of media relations:

Lee Ferguson's father, Richard (1966-69), and uncle, Jug Jenkins (1949-51), were former Crimson Tide players.

Chad Goss was married last spring to women's basketball player Leah Monteith.

Matt Harrison is a descendent of former President William Henry Harrison.

Joel Holliday was on back-to-back state championship football teams and also led his wrestling team to the state title.

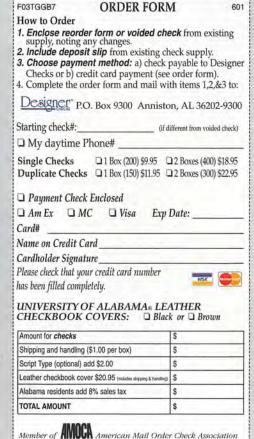
Brenon Meadows transferred to Alabama from Louisville, where he had played center for Coach Howard Schnellenberger's team. He was state discus champion as a prep star at Berry.

Paul Pickett and Andre Short were members of the 1991 national championship high school team.

Dennis Riddle is the nephew of former NFL star John Stallworth.

Chris Sign, a telecommunications and film major, was used as an extra in the CBS television series, "Walker, Texas Ranger."

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Opportunity Will Knock Again

by Donald F. Staffo

It will be responsibility of upcoming junior defensive tackle to get himself into condition

ometimes misfortune for one brings about opportunity for another. Any Alabama defensive lineman who could stay reasonably healthy in 1997 had opportunity available to him. One of those, Jamie Carter, has been exposed to the possibility of increased playing time, but he has work to do if he is going to take full advantage of his chance.

After All-America defensive tackle Michael Myers was ruled ineligible following the opening game of 1997, Carter moved up one spot on the depth chart. The loss of freshman tackle Sam Matthews put more

pressure on defensive line depth. When end Reggie Grimes was lost for the year with a broken leg late in the season, followed by end Chris Hood being limited down the stretch with ankle problems, Defensive Line Coach Ellis Johnson had to make the most of his resources.

Carter, a 6-4, 320-pound sophomore, was one of those resources, and the events of 1997 meant substantial playing time for Carter. Alabama uses a four-man front, but the tackles are not the same. One, "shade," is a nose tackle, while the "three technique" plays in a gap between the offensive guard and tackle. Eric Kerley was originally a three technique, but moved to shade when Myers

departed, with Heath Panks moving up to the starting three technique spot. Most tackles, including Carter, can play both positions. And sometimes players have to be able to play at both end and tackle. Myers had that capability, as did Grimes. As the season progressed, Carter was also used at end as well as tackle, seeing end duty in Bama's game against LSU. Although he was in a back-up role throughout the season, late in the year he did earn a red practice jersey, signifying first team status. For most of the year he had worn the green practice jersey, second team.

Carter said being put in a red practice jersey had an effect on him. "That pushed me



After a prep All-America career, Jamie Carter has seen only limited action as a defensive tackle in his first two seasons at Alabama. Beginning this spring, Carter will have the opportunity to win one of two starting jobs at defensive tackle. Carter has the size and strength to play a nose tackle position and the quickness and agility to be a pass rushing tackle.

Barry Fikes Photo

to work harder in practice just to keep it," he said.

Although never a starter, Carter was a regular in his second season at Alabama. He saw action in nine games and was in on nine tackles, including two for a total of 10 yards behind the line of scrimmage against Arkansas, one of those a quarterback sack. His biggest game for the Philadelphia, Mississippi, native came in his freshman year when he had three tackles and broke up a pass against Ole Miss.

labama has put a 4-7 season behind. Carter and other returning players now look ahead. And what Carter can see is that the starting tackles at the end of the year, Kerley and Panks, were both seniors. This is another opportunity for Carter. Can he do as he did in his final two years at Neshoba High School? As a prep star, a four-year starter, he was all-state his junior and senior seasons and All-America in his last year.

In a spirited recruiting battle, Carter picked Alabama over Florida, Tennessee, Penn State and the Mississippi schools. Bama's success in placing defensive linemen in the NFL was a factor in his decision. Carter had played one year with Will Friend, who just completed his final year on Bama's offensive line. Their coach was Will's father, Chuck (now at Starkville High School). Carter said, "I knew Will was here and that he would show me the ropes," but added that was not a factor in his decision.

As a prep senior, Carter was about 35 pounds lighter, at 285, and was also a couple of tenths of a second quicker in the 40-

yard dash. That is significant.

"The bottom line is that Jamie is going to have to get in shape and lose weight if he's ever going to become the player he is capable of becoming," said Johnson. "Until he gets in the physical condition that he needs to be in, he's going to remain a long way from being the player that he can be."

Carter admitted that he thought his best playing weight was between 290 and 300 pounds, and that the excess baggage has probably affected his conditioning and performance. "If I lost weight, I'd probably be in better shape and I'd probably be a little faster," he said. "I was faster (4.8 compared to 5.0) and in better condition when I was in high school because I weighed only 285 then."

Although players weigh in at the end of practice every day, and although Carter said he was frequently asked by both Johnson and Head Coach Mike DuBose about his weight, the time for Carter to get in shape has to be the off-season, not when the team is trying to prepare for games. Now that the season is over, Carter knows that things will be tough on him as he goes through the rigors of the conditioning program under Strength Coach Terry Jones. Conditioning is the most important goal for Carter, who bench presses a respectable 450 and squats 545.

And, Johnson said, in addition to the regu-

lar off-season program, Carter needs to do additional workouts on exercise bicycle and Stairmaster on his own.

The off-season weight-reduction program will be a challenge. Last summer Carter's weight ballooned to 336, the highest it had ever been. "I've always had a good appetite," he said. "My dad always told my mom, 'If he's hungry, feed him.'" Mom obviously obeyed her husband.

"I believe every big person, every person my size, likes to eat," Carter said. Nevertheless, he expects to get his weight back under

300 before fall practice.

One problem in controlling the weight of the player is NCAA rules changes in meals for athletes. Now there is one training table meal prepared by nutritionists for athletes in season. Other meals and meals at other times of the year are prepared by the athletes or served in dining halls used by all students. Or, more likely since the athletes are given money for their meals, by Burger King and the like. "He's sort of on his own dietwise," Johnson said. "We can give him advice, but our role is limited."

It's no surprise that Carter's goal is to come out of spring training the number one player at either shade or three technique. Johnson said that goal is a little late in coming. The coach said Carter should have been starting as a sophomore. "He's got more natural ability than our other players if he ever gets in shape," Johnson said.

Of the two positions, Carter said he prefers shade, where the defensive tackle lines up between the center and guard. "I like my nose right up there by the ball," he said.

Johnson said the shade tackle requires a bigger, more physical player, whereas a three technique requires a quicker player who can rush the passer. "Jamie can be good at either position," Johnson said. "He's got the physical size to play shade. That's his best position. But he's also got the speed and quickness to play three technique, if he ever gets in shape. Where we use Jamie depends on where the team needs help in a particular game."

Whereas his weight is a problem, Carter said that he still has quickness coming off the ball, good agility, and lateral movement and power. "I think one of my strengths is being able to move from side-to-side to get to the quarterback," he said. "Most people my size can't do that. That's what Coach DuBose and Coach Johnson have told me."

Johnson agreed. "Jamie has got natural talent. For his size, he's got extremely good quickness. That's most unusual."

Carter also said he plays well in practice, but added, "I've got to take my practice speed, my practice mode, and all of my strengths and carry them over into game situations."

Because of his weight and conditioning, Carter wasn't ready to take advantage of the chance he was given in 1997. However, the adage to the contrary, opportunity will knock again for Jamie Carter in 1998. It's up to him to be ready to answer.



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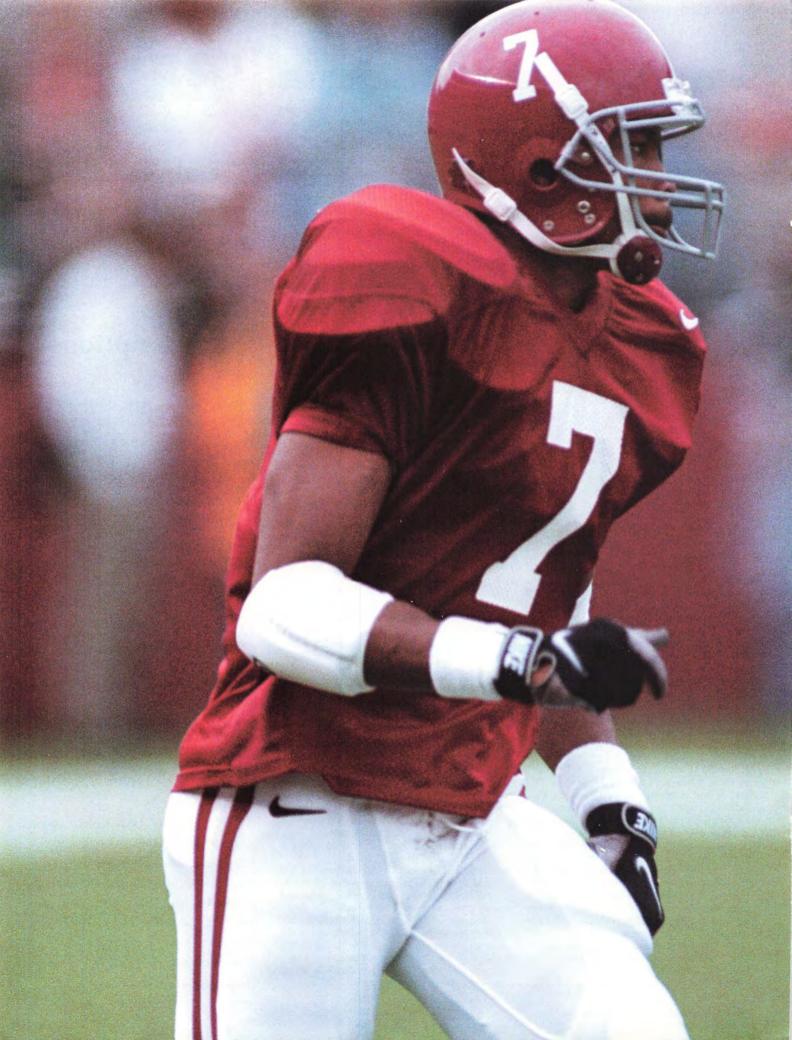
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Quincy Jackson:

Primary Goal Is For More Wins In 1998

by Kirk McNair

Junior college transfer led in all receiving categories

uincy Jackson isn't really sure what individual goals he had when he arrived at Alabama last August. But he knows that whatever they were he exceeded them. On the other hand, he knows that the Crimson Tide came up far short of whatever the team goals may have been.

Jackson, a junior college transfer playing his first season at Alabama, was the only Tider who had at least one reception in all 11 Bama games in 1998. He was also Alabama's leading receiver with 29 catches for 472 yards, a 16.3 yards-per-catch average that was also best on the team for those with more than one reception.

"I just wanted to play a lot," Jackson said of his 1997 pre-season expectations. "I knew that I was going to have to get a feel for playing football for Alabama and in the Southeastern Conference. I guess my goal was to play to the best of my ability."

Jackson came to Alabama from East Mississippi Junior College, where he had been an All-America wide receiver. The 6-2, 190-pounder, who runs a 4.47 40-yard dash, was put into the rotation at flanker along with Michael Vaughn and Chad Goss.

Although Jackson expected to be behind Vaughn when play started, Vaughn, who had been Bama's top receiver in 1996, was forced to miss the entire year after undergoing back surgery just prior to the start of the season. Goss, a senior, actually was the starter in most Bama games during 1997, but Jackson got at least equal playing time at flanker.

In 1998, Jackson expects to split time with Vaughn at flanker, while Calvin Hall, Shamari Buchanan and Tim Bowens are at split end. "Michael had experience and now I've got experience, so we should be pretty strong at flanker," Jackson said.

Jackson said he probably got more opportunity to play because of the injury to

Quincy Jackson doesn't want to have to be looking back at what might have been after next football season. He plans to work hard to make Bama a better football team in 1998.

Barry Fikes Photo



Quincy Jackson had an impressive first season for Alabama after transferring from junior college. Jackson led Bama in receptions, yards receiving and was the only Alabama player to have a pass reception in every Crimson Tide game.

Barry Fikes Photo

Vaughn, but hated to see his teammate unable to play. He said it also put some pressure on him. "I think I tried to hurry myself up and tried to do things that Michael can do, but I can't do," he said. "But I realized that and I began to relax and just tried to do what I can do. I think that gave me

confidence and the more confidence I got, the better I played."

He said, "It was a bigger step from junior college to The University than it was from high school to junior college. There is so much speed at this level and so many plays to learn." He said that college play means

playing with and against great athletes, although he noted that "junior college has some pretty good athletes now. And there are big players in junior college." Jackson played for veteran coach Tom Goode, briefly an Alabama assistant in the 1980s, at East Mississippi.



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Jackson expects to be playing with one of those big junior college players next year. Cornelius Griffin is a star defensive tackle at Pearl River Junior College in Mississippi. Although the two were opponents in junior college, they were teammates at Pike County High School in Brundidge. More than that, they are cousins. Jackson has a pretty good football pedigree. Another cousin, Mercy Hayes, plays for the New Orleans Saints.

At Pike County, Jackson was his team's quarterback (and, yes, he thinks he could make a pass play on the end-around), although he also played tailback and wide receiver, while Griffin was the tight end. "He's too big for tight end, now, though," Jackson said. Like Griffin, Jackson once

committed to Auburn.

Jackson was not a surprise as a wide receiver standout in his first year at Alabama. As a sophomore at East Mississippi he caught 43 passes for 1,170 yards (best in Mississippi junior college ranks) and 12 touchdowns.

ackson gives himself reasonably good marks for his first year. "I think I did pretty good," he said. "I tried as hard as I could and I got to play a lot. I think I got good experience and that will help me and help the team next year.'

Still, he said, "It was kind of a surprise" when he learned he had finished the year

as Alabama's top receiver.

The problem with the past year was the record, 4-7. "When you think of Alabama, you think of winning," Jackson said. "This season was a hard pill to swallow. You look back over Alabama history and there were a lot of seasons of 10-, 11- and even 12and 13-win seasons. Alabama is known for winning. I think there was a time when Alabama won a lot of games just because it was Alabama, but it's not like that. We're going to have to get the job done if we're going to win."

He said that he learned in 1997 that "teams play harder against Alabama. A team may play lousy against other teams, but they know they can make a name for themselves by beating Alabama. A team can have a bad year, but if they beat

Alabama it becomes a good year.

Jackson said, "A lot of guys on the team wish they had done better. You think if you had just done some things differently we might have had some different results. But it's over now. We can't do anything about last year. But we can all do something about this year and the years to come."

Jackson puts himself in the category of those who could have done better. "I had seven dropped passes," he said. "That's just a lack of concentration. I wanted to get the ball too quick and start running. You've got to make sure you catch the football first. So I look back and see where I could have made a difference. But I also look ahead and see where this year of experience will help me in the future."

Jackson said he expects the seniors, himself included, to serve as inspiration for the team in 1998. "We need to have a lot of senior leadership, guys who will help us all remember to take it one game at a time, one play at a time, and always do your best. I don't want to be looking back and saying we could have done better next year like we're having to do this year," he said.

One way Jackson hopes to be able to help Bama in the future is as a kick return man. At East Mississippi he led the state's junior college players in kickoff return average (37.0) and averaged 15 yards per

punt return.

ackson likes to hear his number called. 'It's pretty exciting when you know the play is going to you," he said. "I like to think that I can make something happen, put the team in a position to win by making a play." He said that one reason Alabama went to him frequently in 1997 is that "The coaches felt that if I could get the ball and get turned up-field that I was a pretty good open field runner."

Jackson came to Alabama from junior college knowing that Bama has a reputation as a team that runs the football. That suited him fine. "I think you've got to have a successful running game," he said. "That opens it up for the pass. I think what we did against Ole Miss in establishing the running game is what made it possible for me to have a big day." Jackson had five catches for 119 yards in that game.

Head Coach Mike DuBose has noted that for Jackson to be a truly big-time player he will have to improve. "If you want to be a great receiver, your technique at the line-run or pass-has got to be the same. If not, the defensive back will get a read on you."

Beginning in the spring, Jackson will be learning his techniques from a new coach. Both his offensive coordinator, Bruce Arians, and his position coach, Woody McCorvey, were released. Like most Tide players, and particularly the wide receivers, Jackson was disappointed in the loss of McCorvey.

"That hurt," Jackson said. "He's a good coach and I'm still trying to get over the fact he's gone. He's going to be missed by a lot of people, particularly the receivers. Even though he stayed on me a lot, he wasn't trying to embarrass me; he was trying to make me better. And not just a bet-

ter player, but a better person."

Jackson knows that the off-season program, spring training and summer workouts will be important to Crimson Tide success in his senior season. "Auburn has 365 days to brag, so that should make the off season pretty intense around here," he said.



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Tide Hopes To Continue Improving

by Donna Fromme

Women's team has proven players, but men's squad is rebuilding with all newcomers

or years coaches have insisted that just one exceptional player can carry a program. There's even a name for such a player: Difference-Maker.

Count University of Alabama Women's Golf Coach Betty Palmer among those believers. That's because Kathryn Cusick has taken Tuscaloosa by storm in her two seasons in Palmer's golf program. Not only is Alabama collecting more individual championships than ever before, but the marquee golfer's presence on the team has elevated the play of Alabama's entire squad.

"Kathryn's leadership is exceptional," said Palmer of the senior who transferred to Alabama from the University of Florida last season. "She has the ability to view a golf course and see how it is intended to be played and then go out and play it that way. She doesn't see trouble. She sees only fairways and greens. It's quite a gift. And I believe her presence and her confidence on the course have lifted play all up and down our lineup. Kathryn is not by any means our only talented golfer. But her success is inspiring the others. They see that they can compete for tournament championships."

Cusick's own success has been relatively recent. She played two seasons at Florida but was only in the middle of the lineup there. Just before her junior year, Cusick decided she needed a change in golf programs. She picked Alabama, a twist of fate that im-

mediately impacted Alabama's program. She opened the 1996-97 season for the Tide by leading it to the team tournament championship at Florida State's Lady Seminole while she won the individual title. It was one of two tournaments she won last year as she paced Alabama into tournament championship contention again at the Florida International/Pat Bradley Intercollegiate, where Alabama finished second.

Cusick, first team All-Southeastern Conference last season, added a third medalist title this fall when she opened the 1997-98 season with the championship at Auburn's Tiger Invitational where she shot 72-67-74-213. She goes into the second half of Alabama's season, which picks up February 27 at Florida's Lady Gator Invitational, with a team-leading 75.25 stroke average.

Another golfer who has stepped up her play is Linda Sorensen, who had three top 20 finishes this past fall, including a seventh at Auburn, her career best finish. She's got a 76.67 stroke average. "Linda had an outstanding fail," said Palmer. "She's barely a stroke behind Kathryn, and that's very important. We also have Therés Svedin in the mix. She's averaging 78.18 going into the spring, and I'm really expecting her to step it up this year. All three of them should be individual contenders in every tournament. They each have that capability."

Also helping power the team this fall were newcomer Paula Carter and veteran Rachael Short. Carter is averaging 79.33, Short 81.25.

"We went with the same lineup throughout the fall," Palmer said. "But there are some others who are also talented golfers waiting in the wings, so to speak, including Julie Pelchar, Vanessa Bell and Elizabeth Johnston. With those golfers available, we're in a good position. There's not a big division between the top five who played in all the fall tournaments and the other three. I'd love to see any of those other three make a move into the top five and fully believe any one of them could do it."

Alabama played four tournaments during

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the fall season in a sport which is forced to make an abrupt halt in play from November through the first of February when the more brutal winter months make playing golf difficult. The Tide finished third of 12 teams at the Tiger Invitational (291-292-298-881), tenth of 17 at the Mercedes-Benz Collegiate in Knoxville, Tenn. (324-317-303-944), eighth of 21 teams at Furman's Lady Paladin (303-307-308-918) and fourth of 15 teams at the Memphis Intercollegiate (326-315-313-954).

"Teamwise, we were satisfied to the point that we played fairly aggressively. I think if there's any part of our game we definitely need to improve upon, it's our play on the first day. We haven't been coming out strong on the first day, and it can make a tremendous difference in your finish. You want to go out and play aggressively on the first day and put out that low score and let it be a benchmark for the rest of the tournament.

"I was disappointed in our place at the Mercedes but it turned out to be a great finish considering we were in 16th place going into the final round and then finished tenth. The girls overcame a difficult course and difficult conditions to do that, so that was a positive. We've got to lower our team stroke average by about five shots per round to be in contention for the title each time out. That's how close we are."

Alabama's spring season will include four regular season tournament appearances with tournament trips to Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Gainesville, Florida; Athens, Georgia; and Oahu, Hawaii. Alabama will host the 1998 SEC Championships in Birmingham at Riverchase on April 17-19.

"It's a very competitive schedule," said Palmer. "But we've spent a great deal of time in the weight room with Terry Jones, and already I'm seeing it pay off. We're not as tired by the third round. I think the extra work the golfers did in the weight room during the winter break in play will really show right when we need it to show in the peak part of our season, building toward the SEC championship and the post-season.

"These kids have worked so hard and love the game of golf. And, just as importantly, they love The University of Alabama. I think that shows in their play. I'm certain that their work ethic and their love for Alabama has helped them come this far, because this is a team that doesn't even have a practice facility. We're at the mercy of the courses around town to practice, and they've been very generous to accommodate us, but I can't help but think how much more better we could be with the proper tools."

Then you're a man who is the president of collegiate golf's governing body of coaches and have taken your own team to six NCAA postseason appearances in the last seven years, a start like Dick Spybey had this fall can be a real nightmare.

Alabama opened the season on September 20-21 at the University of Virginia's Keswick Club Classic. It left Charlottesville with a dead-last finish, placing 13th among the 13 teams there. One week later Alabama was back on the competitive course, this time in Knoxville at the University of Tennessee's Tournament of Champions. Rain, fog, play called because of darkness–any bad condition that could happen on the course happened. The results were equally disheartening. This time Alabama finished last of fifteen teams.

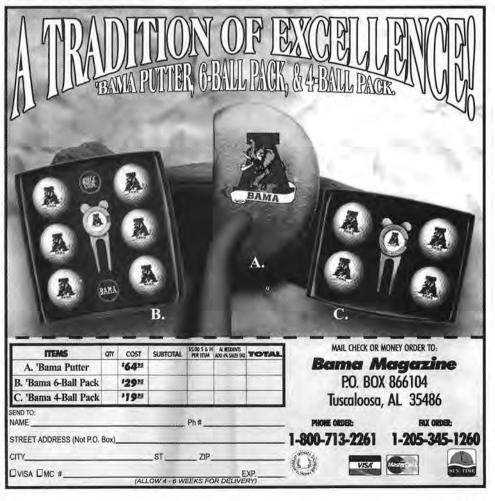
It was rough going for the coach who the United States picked to manage its inaugural Palmer Cup collegiate all-star team last summer. But it was inevitable. Alabama had maintained basically, the same four players in its lineup for the four previous seasons. Graduation at the end of the 1997 season

left Spybey without four of his top five, a top five that took Alabama to NCAA tournament appearances in 1997, 1996 and 1994. And his fifth player, Mobile's Brian Wright, had been a mainstay in Alabama's lineup since his freshman season. But in 1997-98, what would have been his senior season, he decided he needed a year off. He wanted to work on his game, concentrate on school and take a break from competition. (Many collegiate golfers redshirt sometime during their careers, usually as freshmen, though.)

So there was Spybey, fielding his largest roster in years with some 16 golfers (including Wright) but with few who had any collegiate tournament experience. Only John Stahlschmidt, a junior, had any significant experience.

"There are going to be lots of ups and downs this year," Spybey would say after his first tournament. "They're going to have to learn from each week. It will be a seasonlong process."

But, just when things were looking bleak for the year, Spybey's rookie crew came through with a milestone. Competing in late October's Jerry Pate National Intercollegiate,



Alabama found itself among, literally, the 12 best golf teams in the country. The tournament invites only the preseason-top 20 or teams that finished among the top of the field at the previous year's NCAA championships.

Among that field of the best golf powers in the land, Alabama finished in the lower half. But, among the teams it defeated were UNLV, a team that hovered at number one at times last season, and Texas, a perennial top ten golf power that has produced players like Ben Crenshaw, Tom Kite, and Justin Leonard.

"Defeating powerhouses like Texas and UNLV was certainly a step in the right direction," said Spybey, whose team breaks from its schedule for the winter months until the weather allows it to pick up the season again in February. "Hopefully, it's given us more confidence."

Though he competed in only two of the four fall tournaments, true freshman Wes Vance emerged from fall play with Alabama's low stroke average at 75.0. Brooks Friday, who is competing in his first season for Alabama though he is a senior academically, was just a fraction behind, and, perhaps, technically the low stroke leader as he averaged 75.92 while appearing in all four fall tournaments. Stahlschmidt averaged 76.5 in four appearances.

Freeman Fite, a true freshman and perhaps possessor of Alabama's most promising potential as he ages, competed in all four events and averaged 76.92. He had a low round of 68, shot in the opening round of Stanford's The Nelson. Fite led that prestigious tournament after the first round and remained in title contention through the final round. His 68 was Alabama's low round for the fall.

Spybey's team used nine different players last fall, experimenting to get the right chemistry and the right mix of five. It could be a trend that continues at least through the first couple of spring tournaments. After all, this is a building season, and the only way Spybey can give his players the experience they desperately need is to give them all opportunities to play.

Among those others was Chip Zahn who competed in two tournaments and averaged 78.33. Tim Arnoult, a 1997 U.S. Amateur participant, played in Alabama's final tournament of the fall at Stanford and averaged 78.67 a round. Sophomore transfer Eric Snyder shot 76.67 in his first three rounds at Alabama. Thomasville's Lee Davis competed once and averaged 80.33. Robert Ireland also competed once, averaging 80.67.

Alabama picks up its season on February



Kathryn Cusick is the proven leader of the Alabama women's golf team. John Stahlschmidt heads up the men's team, which will be rebuilding this year.

Barry Fikes Photo

7-8 when it makes its annual trip to Gainesville for the University of Florida's Gator Invitational. It is the first of five regular season tournaments Alabama will play in as it follows that with the John Burns Intercollegiate in Honolulu, a tournament that gives Alabama a good cross section of

national competition it needs to prepare it for postseason play, the March 6-8 Matlock Collegiate in Lakeland, Florida, and the April 10-12 Billy Hitchcock Invitational in Auburn. The University of Georgia will be the host school for the 1998 SEC Championships on April 17-19.

Tide Looks For Skill In Southeast

by Craig Threlkeld

Here's another look at top prep prospects who may be on Tide's list

anuary to a college football fan means one thing. The home-stretch in recruiting. Alabama coaches have already been busy (and productive) on the recruiting trail, and in the final month will wrap up the 25 new signees that can be brought in for next season.

Bama is involved in a number of skill position players-offensive and defensive backs and wide receivers. Here is a look at some from around the Southeast who have been linked to Alabama. As always, it must be noted that this is not The University of Alabama's recruiting list, rather a list gleaned from reports in specialty publications and newspapers. We are particularly indebted to Freddie Kirby of "Pigskin Preps," which we consider to be the most accurate of the many recruiting services in the Southeast. (To subscribe to "Pigskin Preps," send \$40 to P.O. Box 428, Moulton, AL 35650.) Prospects are listed alphabetically by states.

FLORIDA

It doesn't seem likely that Alabama would be interested in Danny Adams as a quarterback because he was an option man at Senior High School in Miami. However, he has great skills and at 5-11, 185 and with 4.4 speed in the 40 might have a bright college future as either a cornerback or wide receiver. He is an excellent student.

Shaddrick Carter is a 5-11, 185-pound strong safety at Miami Southridge. He is one of a number of prep stars in Florida who seems likely to go out of state. He had 60 tackles as a junior on a team loaded with top players.

Tim Carter is a 6-0, 181-pound cornerback at St. Petersburg Lakewood. He reportedly has a sub 4.4 time in the 40. As a junior he was forced to switch to quarterback and responded with an excellent year. He is looking at a number of out-of-state schools, including Alabama. He is also a good student.

Jimel Cofer is one of the top athletes in Florida, a true cornerback for powerful Hollywood South Broward. He is 6-1, 185, and has 4.5 speed in the 40. Cofer had 65 tackles and eight interceptions as a junior. He is considering a wide range of schools, including Florida, Alabama and Notre Dame.

Corey Edwards is a 6-0, 190-pound cornerback at Lake Highland Prep in Orlando. Prior to the season he was listed by some publications as the South's top defensive back. He had played as a junior at West Orange High School in Winter Garden, but transferred to Lake Highland to get his academics in order. He has a reported 4.4 time in the 40 and a time of 10.7 at 100 meters. His list of schools reads like a who's who of

college football: Alabama, Notre Dame, Florida, FSU, Ohio State and Tennessee.

Vito Golson has a long list of schools he is considering, ranging from Illinois to North Carolina, and including Alabama. He is a 6-3, 185-pound wide receiver at Lakewood High School in St. Petersburg, but he is expected to be a free safety in college, a position he plays part time in high school.

Ernest Graham is a 5-10, 210-pound running back at Mariner High School in Cape Coral. He has been clocked at just under 4.5 in the 40 and has drawn attention from Florida, Notre Dame, Florida State, Clemson and South Carolina, as well as Alabama. He has been described as the number one runner in Florida, possessing size, speed and toughness that enables him to break tackles. He rushed for 2,200 yards as a junior and was on track to better that this year.

Dale Hall joins Shaddrick Carter in what must be one of the finest high school secondaries ever at Miami Southridge. Hall is 5-11, 170 and considered an excellent cover cornerback. Despite missing two games as a junior he had 40 tackles and three interceptions. He's looking at Florida and Alabama.

David "J.R." Jenkins, Jr. is listed as a linebacker in a number of publications, but the 6-1, 197-pound speedster from Lake Butler Union County is likely to be a strong safety in college. He's being recruited by the likes of Alabama, Nebraska and Florida. He comes from a winning program and is a former teammate of Bama quarterback Andrew Zow. He's a two-time state champion in the high hurdles and is an excellent student.

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Todd Johnson, 6-2, 185, was a pre-season prep All-America at free safety at Sarasota Riverview. He is considered by many to be the best safety prospect in the South. As a junior he had 135 tackles and five interceptions. He is also an excellent track man and a good student who is considering Florida, Alabama, Stanford, Ohio State and Michigan.

Rod Littles, 5-11, 185, would appear to be a lock for Florida. The cornerback, who runs a 4.5 40 and led his team in tackles and in interceptions for the past three years, plays at Gainesville. He also saw some playing time at running back as he has run the 100 meters in 11 seconds. Although the Gators are the favorite, he is considering a

large number of schools.

Jason McMillion is a 6-0, 245-pound full-back at Lake Highland Prep in Orlando. He's a bruiser back, but he also has 4.5 break-away speed. McMillion is considered a prospect as a linebacker as well as fullback as he had over 150 tackles this year. He lists Alabama, FSU, Vanderbilt and Rice among his top choices.

Mel Mitchell, 6-1, 187, runs a reported 4.35 40-yard dash and is an excellent wide receiver for Rockledge. However, the schools recruiting him-Florida, Texas and Alabama, among them-will probably only get to place him in junior college because of

academic shortcomings.

Scott Moats didn't have a big-time pre-season reputation, hence his name was mentioned with the likes of Alabama-Birmingham, Northern Illinois and Central Florida. However, some bigger names began to take notice during the fall, particularly since Moats, 6-3, 195, runs a 4.45 40 at Melbourne. The wide receiver caught 23 passes for 545 yards his senior year.

Greg Moore, 6-1, 185, is a wide receiver at Bartow, considered by many to be the South's best and universally regarded as the fastest with a reported 4.3 clocking in the 40. As a junior he led his team to the state title with 64 receptions for 1,002 yards and 13 touchdowns. Although he has been reported as favoring Michigan, he is still considering a number of other schools, includ-

ing Alabama.

Broderick Nelson is a 6-1, 170-pound wide receiver at South Broward High School in Hollywood. He has good hands and speed (4.5) and a knack for getting open. He had 912 yards and 13 touchdowns receiving as a junior. He is involved with Michigan and Michigan State, Miami, Florida and Florida State, as well as Alabama.

Although Mike Rumph committed to Miami after going to the Hurricanes' football camp last summer, the 6-2, 180-pound safety from Atlantic High School in Del Ray Beach continues to attract attention from recruiters. He is an outstanding track man who runs a sub 4.4 time in the 40.

Alabama Has Long Commitment List

Alabama has an unusually large number of high school and junior college football players who have announced they intend to sign with the Crimson Tide. It is believed that Todd Whitmore, a 6-5, 275-pound defensive tackle at East Mississippi Community College, will enter Alabama in January and take part in spring practice. Other junior college players being recruited by Bama may have to wait until August to enter The University. Here are those who had announced by mid-December they intend to sign with Bama.

Sam Collins, 6-2, 175, wide receiver, Fayette

Maryin Constant, 6-3, 247, linebacker/fullback, Tuscaloosa Central

Victor Ellis, 6-3, 215, linebacker/strong safety, Chattanooga, Tennessee, Red Bank

Ahmaad Galloway, 6-0, 200, running back, Millington, Tennessee

Ray Marshall, 6-5, 310, offensive lineman, Montevallo

Mario Monds, 6-4, 330, defensive tackle, Fort Pierce, Florida, Hutchinson (Kansas) Junior College

Kindall Moorehead, 6-5, 265, linebacker, Memphis, Tennessee, Melrose

Bart Raulston, 6-8, 300, offensive tackle, Sylvania

Shontua Ray, 5-10, 185, running back, Montevallo

Theo Sanders, 6-3, 220, linebacker/tight end, Birmingham Shades Valley

Tyler Watts, 6-3, 210, quarterback, Pelham

Todd Whitmore, 6-5, 275, defensive tackle, Ranburne, East Mississippi Community College

Stanford Samuels, Jr. is the son of a former Florida State player, and FSU ranks among the many schools he is considering. Samuels is a 5-10, 180-pound cornerback at Carol City in Mīami, where he is a teammate of tight end Johnvan Morgan, the half brother of Derrick Thomas who is considering Bama. He is a very good student.

Phillip Weeks is a 6-3, 185-pound free safety at Lake Butler Union County. He's the brother of Auburn's Adrian Weeks, but plans to visit Alabama. Going into the state playoffs he had recorded 74 tackles, five interceptions, three fumble recoveries and one blocked punt.

Alabama may or may not be interested in signing a place-kicker this year, but if Bama does go after another kicker it may be Mark Wisniewski, a 6-0, 190-pounder at Jacksonville Bishop Kenny. Wisniewski lists Alabama, Florida, Notre Dame, Miami and Texas A&M as schools he is considering.

GEORGIA

Alabama's recent coaching changes could have an effect on recruiting. For instance, Alabama and Florida State have been considered the leaders for the top lineman in the South, Brett Williams of Kissimmee (Florida) Osceola, and the man recruiting him for FSU is new Tide assistant Ronnie Cottrell. And when Bama announced the hiring of Charlie Harbison from Clemson as secondary coach, it probably made an impression on David Bleisath, considered the top strong safety prospect in Georgia and one of the best in the South. Bleisath, 6-3, 215, has been listed as deciding between Clemson and Alabama. He starred as a free safety (he has 4.5 speed in the 40) at Sequoyah High School in Canton. An excellent student, he camped at Georgia Tech last summer.

Terrence Edwards is a 6-2, 175-pound quarterback at Washington County High School in Sandersville, Georgia. Edwards is generally considered the top prospect in Georgia and the best athlete in the South. He had over 2,000 yards total offense as a junior and was on track to equal or better that mark in leading his team to its third consecutive state championship. He has been clocked at 4.4 in the 40-yard dash. His brother, Robert, is a running back at Georgia, but Terrence is considering Alabama, Auburn, Tennessee and Georgia Tech as well as the Bulldogs.

Lester Norwood is a 6-3, 193-pound free safety at Wheeler High School in Marietta. He runs a 4.47 40-yard dash. He played strong safety prior to this year and had 70 tackles as a junior. He is also an excellent student, Norwood has spent the last three summers in Florida State's football camp and FSU is considered the leader, but he is also looking at Alabama, Florida, Georgia Tech and Tennessee.

Tim Wansley is a 5-10, 175-pound cornerback at Buford, where former Tide star and longtime outstanding Georgia prep coach Dexter Woods is head man. Tim runs a 4.4 40-yard dash. He has played just about every skill position on the field on both offense and defense and is also an excellent kick return man. He is also a fine basketball player and defending state champion in the 100 meters. In addition to Bama, he is considering Tennessee, Georgia and FSU.

MISSISSIPPI

There is a top place-kicker in Pascagoula. Mark Bridges, 6-0, 160, has been reported as looking at Alabama, along with the three Mississippi schools, LSU and Florida State.

If Freddie Milons isn't the top prospect in the Magnolia State, he's certainly among them. Publications in Mississippi can't say enough about the 5-11, 177-pound allaround star at Starkville. He has been clocked at 4.4, but more than speed he has the ability to take a game over and make winning plays on both sides of the football. He was a quarterback in high school for Coach Chuck Friend (Will's father), but is expected to be a wide receiver or cornerback in college. He had over 1,000 yards of offense as a senior. As a junior he had over 1,500 yards of total offense. Alabama and LSU are the leaders for Milons, but he's also considering Florida and FSU.

Marco Minor is a 6-4, 200-pound wide receiver at Natchez. He runs a 4.5 40 and is described as a very aggressive receiver who uses his good size and excellent leaping ability, as well as a knack for getting open. He had 21 receptions for 536 yards and nine touchdowns as a junior. Some also consider

him a prospect as a free safety.

Reggie Myles may have eliminated Alabama from his list, although earlier this year it was reported that Alabama and LSU (where he attended football camp) were the leaders for this 6-0, 180-pound cornerback at Pascagoula. He has reportedly run a sub-4.4 40. He has starred as a defensive back, wide receiver and kick return man and is also a good student.

Syniker Taylor, 6-2, 190, is the top-ranked free safety in Mississippi. He has played both wide receiver and defensive back at Gulfport and has started on both sides for three years. He runs a 4.4 40. He went to the Ole Miss camp last summer. He is a state

champion in the long jump.

TENNESSEE

Teddy Gaines is one of those players who has made big plays as a wide receiver, but expects his college work to be on the defensive side of the football at cornerback, where he has also starred at Dobyns Bennett High School in Kingsport. He is a 6-0, 160-pounder who runs a 4.4 40. Gaines went to football camp at North Carolina, but is also considering other schools, including nearby Tennessee.

There are a lot of good things about Ahmaad Galloway, not the least of which is that the top running back prospect in Tennessee has committed to Alabama. Galloway was expected to be the top runner in the state this year, and the 6-0, 200-pounder at Millington Central didn't do anything to disappoint. He rushed for over 2,000 yards and 30 touchdowns for a 9-3 team, about the same statistics he had as a junior (2,317 yards for 31 touchdowns). He is also an excellent student who picked Bama over Notre Dame, Nebraska, Texas, Michigan and Penn State.

Eric Locke is one of the finest athletes in the nation, almost universally considered the top player in Tennessee. He led his Murfreesboro Riverdale team to the state championship and in that game was named both Most Valuable Offensive Player and Most Valuable Defensive Player. Locke, 5-9, 185, has been a high school quarterback and safety. He is related to two Bama players, cornerback Fernando Bryant and tailback Shaun Bohanon. He camped at Alabama and Tennessee last summer. He had been considered to be deciding between Alabama and North Carolina and that Bama had taken a big lead when Mack Brown left North Carolina. Vanderbilt is also in the picture.

Although Bama's football recruiting efforts out of the state of Alabama are concentrated in the contiguous Southeastern states of Florida, Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee, there are a few high-profile prospects in other areas.

Among the skill position players in other states who have been identified with Alabama is high school All-America tailback Jonathan Adams, a 6-1, 188-pound speedster from Osceola, Arkansas. Many consider Adams the top rusher in the nation. He has been clocked at 4.4 in the 40-yard dash and he shattered the state records held by Arkansas star Madre Hill. In the second round of the playoffs he rushed for 190 yards and four touchdowns, giving him state records of 80 touchdowns and 6,200 yards rushing in his career. A three-time all-state selection, he rushed for 2,400 yards as a junior and was over the 2,000-yard mark and had 24 touchdowns this year. He has been timed at 10.5 in the 100 meters and 21.2 in the 200 meters. In addition to Alabama, Michigan, Tennessee and, possibly, Arkansas are his favorites.

Marvin Brown is a 6-0, 247-pound full-back at famed DeMatha High School in Hyattsville, Maryland. Brown's parents are both from Alabama. He also has a relative on his football team, cousin John Day (6-4, 237), who is one of the nation's top-ranked tight ends, and who is also considering Bama. He's also interested in Penn State, Michigan, Pittsburgh and Maryland. A year ago Brown was a 270-pound all-conference guard, but his work on the track and in the weight room got him down to fullback size. He averaged 8.5 yards per carry with 927 yards and 12 touchdowns. His father played for the Washington Redskins.

In Kentucky, Artose Pinner is a 5-11, 195-

BAMA RECRUITING

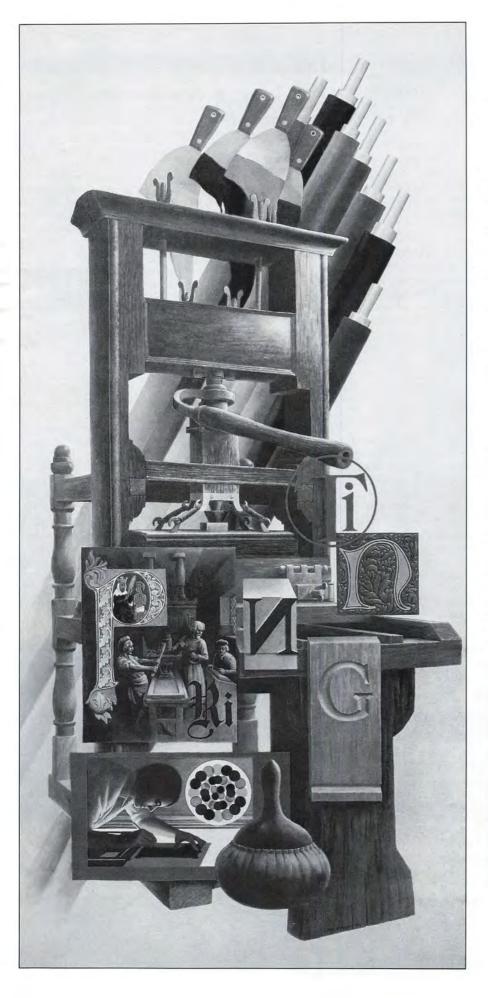
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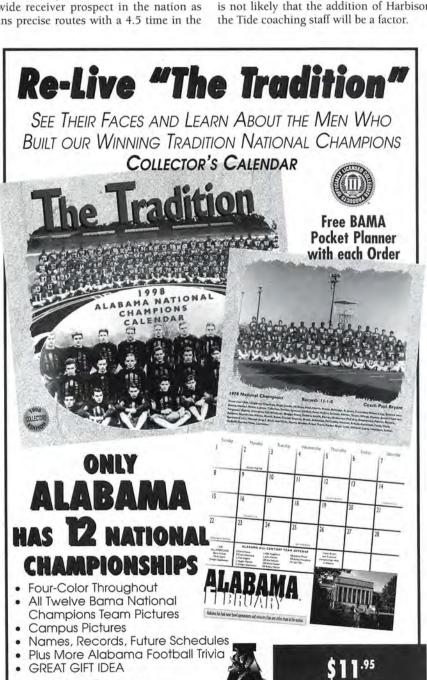
pound running back at Hopkinsville. Going into the state playoffs he had over 3,200 yards rushing and needed just 200 yards to break the state record, held by current Bama tailback Shaun Alexander. Pinner also had 34 touchdowns. He is also talking to Tennessee, Notre Dame, Michigan State, Auburn, Kentucky and Cincinnati.

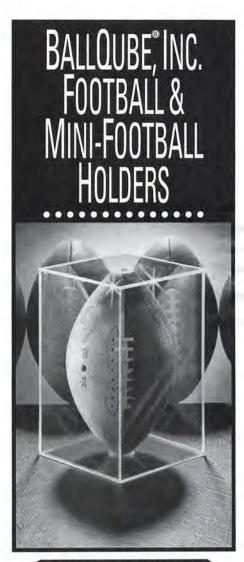
Marquis Walker is a 6-3, 190-pound wide receiver at Henniger High School in Syracuse, New York. Many consider him the number one wide receiver prospect in the nation as he runs precise routes with a 4.5 time in the 40. He also has good hands and blocks well downfield. He had 40 receptions for 860 yards and 10 touchdowns as a junior. A long list of suitors includes Syracuse, Alabama, Michigan, FSU, Florida and Tennessee.

Devin Scott is a 6-0, 180-pound all-around athlete at Dorman High School in Spartanburg, South Carolina, who has been clocked at 4.5 in the 40. He has played primarily as a quarterback. While Alabama is on his long list of colleges, Clemson is not, so it is not likely that the addition of Harbison to the Tide coaching staff will be a factor.

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BAMA SCORECARD

Why Not Tuscaloosa?

Alabama's agreement to play about half its home football games at Legion Field in Birmingham includes a clause in the contract that gives Bama first refusal on all dates. In 1996 Legion Field scheduled a conflict, an Alabama game as well as a game between two other colleges. No problem. Alabama gave up the date and played four games in Tuscaloosa, only two in Birmingham.

This year Legion Field did it again, allowing both Alabama and Alabama-Birmingham to schedule home dates on the same weekend. In fact, this year there were two conflicts, on September 12 and September 26. The easy solution, it would seem, would be for Alabama to graciously provide Legion Field to Alabama-Birmingham and move the Vanderbilt and East Carolina games to Bryant-Denny Stadium, placing six of seven Tide home games in Tuscaloosa.

However, that's not what happened. Alabama-Birmingham was forced to relinquish the dates, and so Bama will play three games in Birmingham (Auburn on November 21 is the third) and four games in Tuscaloosa.

Alabama's 1998 football schedule is:

September 5 Brigham Young in Tuscaloosa, September 12 Vanderbilt in Birmingham, September 19 Arkansas in Fayetteville, September 26 East Carolina in Birmingham, October 3 Florida in Tuscaloosa, October 17 Ole Miss in Tuscaloosa, October 24 Tennessee in Knoxville, October 31 Southern Miss in Tuscaloosa, November 7 LSU in Baton Rouge, November 14 Mississippi State in Starkville and November 21 Auburn in Birmingham.

Alabama is contracted to play games in Birmingham through 2001, four more seasons.

All-SEC

Anyone looking at Alabama's returning football roster a year ago would have been able to pick out a few likely All-Southeastern Conference, indeed All-America, performers. Upcoming senior defensive stars, Dwayne Rudd and Michael Myers, would have been at the top of the list. After all, both had earned All-America honors as juniors, and Rudd had been named SEC Defensive Player of the Year and Most Valuable Player in the Outback Bowl. Additionally, the Tide returned star cornerbacks Deshea Townsend and Fernando Bryant.

Best bet for post-season honors on offense would have been wide receiver Michael Vaughn, Bama's leading receiver in 1996, but several others were expected to receive consideration. They included tight end Rod Rutledge, tailback Dennis Riddle (although it was expected Riddle would have to share time at that high profile position with Curtis

Alexander and Shaun Alexander), guard Will Friend and tackle Chris Samuels.

But instead of Alabama having a handful of individual honors (to go along with expected team success) in 1997, the player awards were about as scarce as Crimson Tide victories in a dismal 4-7 season.

Rudd turned pro, Myers aborted his career by having illegal contact with an agent (and then failing to cooperate in the investigation), and Vaughn was injured before the season started. Townsend and Bryant were injured through much of the year.

Alabama has no All-America football players this year. The closest is junior defensive end Chris Hood, who was honorable mention on the *Football News* list, where Hood was also first team All-SEC. On various All-SEC teams the Tide has had a few players mentioned for second team or honorable mention. They include Hood, Rutledge, Friend, Samuels, Bryant and Townsend.

Frosh Honorees

Alabama did pretty well with honors for freshmen football players. The *Knoxville News-Sentinel* All-SEC Freshman team included center Paul Hogan, defensive lineman Kenny Smith, linebacker Travis Carroll and strong safety Marcus Spencer. Carroll and Smith were unanimous selections.

Academic Selections

Alabama football players named to the SEC Academic Honor Roll include Ty Babcock, Clyde Butler, Travis Crim, Rhett Crutchfield, Warren Foust, Chad Goss, Chad McGehee, Patrick Morgan, John David Phillips, Paul Pickett, Michael Ray, George Ross, Jonathan Rudolph, Clint Waggoner, Jarrod Warren, and Robert Warnock.

Among Baina players who were graduated December 19 were Curtis Alexander, Calvin Hall and Warren Foust. Hall and Foust still have a year of eligibility remaining.

Go, Bama! Beat Blue!

Football is not over for a handful of Crimson Tide players. It's rare for Alabama players to participate in the Blue-Gray Game, held in Montgomery's Crampton Bowl each Christmas day, because Bama players are ordinarily preparing for a bowl game. However, this year four Crimson Tide seniors were selected for the Blue-Gray Game. They are tailbacks Curtis Alexander and Dennis Riddle, fullback Ed Scissum and defensive tackle Eric Kerley. Tight end Rod Rutledge was also invited, but had not decided whether he would participate.

On January 17, Mobile will host the Delchamps Senior Bowl in Ladd Stadium. That game, attended by virtually every NFL team scouting director and most head coaches, is expected to include Rutledge and cornerback Deshea Townsend from Alabama. And, somewhat surprisingly, it has been confirmed that Michael Myers, the 6-3, 275-pound defensive tackle who was tossed

off Bama's squad last fall, will participate in the game.

More Seniors

Alabama's football office announced that three walk-on players who had not previously been listed with the seniors featured on Page 12 in this issue have completed their football careers. They are cornerback Derek Cunningham of Pelham, linebacker Jonathan Rudolph of Mobile, and defensive tackle Chris Warren of Birmingham. Cunningham and Warren were unable to participate as seniors because of injuries suffered earlier in their careers, while Rudolph was a member of most Bama special teams last season.

More For Kitchens

Athletics is not over for quarterback Freddie Kitchens, whose football career ended in Bama's 18-17 loss at the hands of Auburn. Kitchens is going to return to the Alabama baseball team.

Kitchens played baseball in the spring of his freshman year, a decision that proved costly when he suffered a torn pectoral muscle. Not only did it end the baseball season for Kitchens, whose fastball had been clocked at over 90 miles per hour, but it also affected his football performance, earning him a redshirt season in 1994. It was no secret that then Tide Head Football Coach Gene Stallings was not happy about that development, and Kitchens elected to put his baseball career on hold until after his football eligibility had been completed.

In his one partial season with the baseball squad Kitchens was 2-0 with a 3.26 earned

run average.

Meanwhile, Alabama has changed baseball coaches. Jim Wells has never seen Kitchens pitch, but has said he will welcome him to the team.

Going Fast

Last year Alabama had the nation's best home baseball record, a 36-3 mark at Swell-Thomas Stadium. That may be the reason that by mid-December, season ticket sales

were up by nearly 40 per cent.

This year Bama will host non-conference foes Houston, Nicholls State, Arkansas-Little Rock, Louisiana Tech, Mercer, Eastern Illinois, Southern Miss and in-state rivals North Alabama, Jacksonville State, Alabama-Birmingham, South Alabama and Samford. The SEC schedule includes Florida, Mississippi State, Tennessee, Ole Miss and a season-ending three-game set with Auburn.

Tickets are \$105 for chairback seat (if available) and \$75 for grandstand and bleacher seats. There are special group, senior citizen and faculty/staff rates. For information, call (205) 348-6111.

Bama finished seventh in the nation in attendance last year, its second straight top 10 finish. In 39 home dates the Crimson Tide drew a school-record 103,177 fans, an average of 2,646 per game.

Another Award For Willard

Former Alabama gymnastics star Meredith

Willard was named one of the NCAA Top VIII award winners, given annually to the eight senior student-athletes who best exemplify the highest ideals of intercollegiate athletics. The award is given regardless of

gender, NCAA division, or sport.

Willard is the third Crimson Tide athlete to receive the award since its inception in 1973. Linebacker Randy Hall was the first Alabama and Southeastern Conference athlete to bring home the prize, doing so in 1975. Steadman Shealy, quarterback of Alabama's 1979 national championship football team, earned the award in 1980. Willard is the 11th SEC athlete to win the award and the first female in over a decade. Willard is the fourth female gymnast to win the award and the first since 1993.

"The Top VIII award is the most prestigious award bestowed by the NCAA on a student-athlete," Alabama athletics director Bob Bockrath said. "Winning this award is reflective of Meredith's many accomplishments, both in the athletic and academic arenas. We are very proud of Meredith not just for earning this award, but for the overall and tremendously positive reflection that her career has been on the University of Alabama and the athletics department.'

Willard's influence on collegiate athletics has been far reaching. In addition to being one of the best in her sport, she has championed the cause of the athlete at every level. She has served on the Alabama and SEC Student-Athlete Advisory board and in 1996 she was chosen as one of 28 student-athletes nationwide who serve as the NCAA Student-Athlete Advisory board. In that role, she has played a part in shaping the future of intercollegiate athletics, from committee work to addressing the NCAA dele-

gates on the convention floor.

The exclusive NCAA Top VIII award, which is chosen on the basis of athletic, academic and community involvement excellence, is the latest in a long line of awards earned by the marketing major. An NCAA Woman of the Year finalist, she was named 1997 SEC Student-Athlete of the Year and SEC Gymnast of the Year. The 1996 NCAA All-Around champion, she earned an SEC and NCAA Postgraduate scholarship. She was part of the 1997 United States World University Games Silver Medal team. An 11time All-American, Willard earned GTE Academic All-American honors in 1997 and Scholastic All-American honors each of her four years.

As a senior, she was awarded the University of Alabama National Alumni Association's Alumni Student Award and the F. David Mathews Award, both of which signify the University's top student. Willard, who was on schedule to graduate with a degree in marketing this past summer, put her plans on hold when the opportunity to represent the United States at the World University Games came about. After returning from Italy, site of the games, with a silver medal, she took an internship with Chic-fil-A's marketing department, working with the SEC Football Championship Game and the Chic-fil-A Peach Bowl. She returns to the classroom this spring to finish her de-

gree. Next fall, she will begin work on a Masters of Business Administration at the Capstone.

Grandslammers

One of the most active support groups for Alabama team is the Alabama Grandslammers, which supports Bama baseball. Memberships are available for \$25 for individuals, \$40 for families. The group has a meeting on the first Monday of every month at 7 p.m. in the President's Lounge in Coleman Coliseum and also sponsors numerous projects and trips. For more information, contact Grandslammers President Scott Cork at (205) 333-9943.

The Grandslammers will sponsor its preseason barbecue on Saturday, February 7, in the Hank Crisp Indoor Practice Facility. Team members and coaches will be on hand for photographs and autographs.

PGA Qualifiers

Former Alabama men's golfers Spike McRoy of Huntsville and Dicky Pride of Tuscaloosa have re-joined the PGA Tour. Both had formerly been on the tour, but failed to earn enough money to retain their playing cards. As a result, they were forced to go through the rigors of the PGA Qualifying Tournament, in which several hundred players competed for the 30-odd tour cards that enable a golfer to play on the lucrative tour.

Number 100

When Alabama defeated Texas A&M, 81-64, on December 3, it marked the 100th victory for David Hobbs as Bama's head men's basketball coach.

National Coaches

Alabama Women's Track and Field Coach Sandy Fowler has been named an assistant for the United States Olympic Team for the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia. Fowler, a newly-appointed head coach of the Bama women's team, was an assistant coach for the 1993 US World Outdoor squad. She was the throws referee for the

1992 Olympic Trials.

Bama Men's Head Coach Harvey Glance was selected as an assistant coach for the United States team for the 1999 Pan American Games in Winnipeg, Canada. Glance, a three-time Olympian as a competitor, is no stranger to international competition. He coached the World Junior Team in Lisbon, Portugal, and was head men's coach for Team USA at the World University Games in Sicily, Italy, last summer.

The coaches were appointed by the USA Track and Field's international competition committee.

Tide Ranked

Alabama's men's tennis team was listed at number 20 in the final Intercollegiate Tennis Association rankings of the fall. The next ratings will be announced following the start of spring play and eight polls will be

The Tide ended last season ranked number 21 under former Coach Joey Rivé. New Coach Adam Steinberg coached the team through fall play.

Individually, sophomore Francisco Rodriguez was ranked 15th in the poll after finishing fall play with a 7-4 record. Senior Chris Lopez was ranked 56th individually and he and freshman Graydon Oliver, who won the Rolex Indoor Region III doubles title, were ranked 17th as a duo. They had a 9-2 record and by virtue of their region title will automatically advance to the National Indoors competition to be held in Madison, Wisconsin in early February.

While Bama was ranked 20th in the nation, the bad news is that the South region is so dominant that the Tide is only ninth

among the 15 teams in Region III.

In region rankings, Lopez and Oliver were rated fifth, Rodriguez was 12th, Lopez 20th and junior Ariel Rivero 28th.

Success, But Disappointment

It's a measure of how far the men's cross country team of Coach David Troy has come when his team wins the district championship to advance to the NCAA Championships and yet the season is considered to have ended on a disappointing note. That's because Bama did not fare well in the NCAA meet, finishing 29th in the nation. Bama had been aiming for a top 15 finish after being 20th in 1996. Indeed, Troy thought a top 10 placing was a possibility.

As was the case throughout the year, sophomore Tim Broe was the Bama leader. However, in running the exact time that had him finish first in District III, he was only

29th in the NCAA meet.

The Bama women's team did not qualify, but freshman Amanda Grout qualified as an individual and finished 126th.

Soccer Honorees

Ashley Kirkland, a senior forward on Alabama's soccer team, was named to the All-Central Region first team, while senior sweeper Nellie Barnes was selected to the third team.

Kirkland led the Tide in scoring all three years in her career and was named 1996 team Most Valuable Player. Kirkland and goalkeeper Carrie Warner were named first team All-SEC and 10 members of Coach Don Staley's squad were named Academic All-SEC.

Volleyball Honorees

Sophomores Laura LeBlanc and Kari Weber were named to the SEC Academic Honor Roll for volleyball. Monica Davis was named second team All-SEC.

Pepper Honored

Simpson Pepper, former public address announcer for Alabama football and basketball games, was honored this year with a plaque installed at the entrance to the public address booth at Legion Field in Birmingham. Pepper, a long-time coach and educator in Birmingham, has been announcing games at Legion Field for some 35 years. He previously was Alabama's announcer at both men's basketball and football games.

1997-98 Alabama Winter Sports Schedules

Men's Basketball

Date	Opponent Time (
89	Marathon Oil (Exh.)	72
65	Slovakia Chemosvit (Exh.)	50
81	North Texas	61
64	@ Minnesota	63
105	Jacksonville State	72
Puerto	Rico Holiday Classic @ San J	uan
60	Georgia Tech	62
79	American University PR	88
60	Wichita State	58
81	Texas A&M	64
61	@ Boston University	53
66	Florida International	68
Dec. 20	Tulane @ Birmingham	TBA
Dec. 22	Alabama State	7:00
All-Col	lege Tournament @ Oklahoma	City
Dec. 27	Sam Houston State	TBA
Dec. 28	Oklahoma or Coppin State	TBA
Jan. 3	Mississippi State	TBA
Jan. 7	@ LSU (Jefferson-Pilot)	7:00
Jan. 10	Ole Miss (CBS)	1:00
Jan. 14	Vanderbilt (Jefferson Pilot)	7:00
Jan. 18	@ Auburn (Jefferson Pilot)	1:30
Jan. 21	Kentucky @ Louisville	TBA
Jan. 24	@ Arkansas	TBA
Jan. 28	Tennessee	7:00
Feb. 4	Auburn	7:00
Feb. 7	@ Ole Miss	TBA
Feb. 11	@ South Carolina (Jeff Pilot)	7:00
Feb. 14	Florida	7:00
Feb. 18	@ Georgia	TBA
Feb. 21	LSU (Fox SportSouth	5:00
Feb. 25	@ Mississippi State	TBA
Feb. 28	Arkansas (Jefferson Pilot)	3:00

Southeastern Conference Tournament March 5-8 @ Atlanta TBA

Men's Swimming

		0
Date		Time (CST)
81	Delta State	30
64	Northeast Louisiana	47
Oct. 24-	Collegiate Aqua Spor	ts All Day
Oct. 25	@ Fort Lauderdale, F	
Oct. 30-	Diving Wrold Trials	All Day
Nov. 1	@ Athens, Georgia	
87	LSU	154
Nov. 14-16	Auburn Invitational	All Day
Dec. 4-	United States Open	All Day
Dec. 6	@ Indianapolis, India	ina
Jan. 2-	Georgia Diving	All Day
Jan. 4	@ Athens, Georgia	
Jan. 3	Georgia	1:00
Jan. 10	South Carolina	11:00
Jan. 24	@ Florida	10:30
Feb. 7	@ Auburn	11:00
Feb. 15-	SEC Diving	All Day
Feb. 17	@ Gainesville, Fla.	
Feb. 18-	SEC Championships	All Day
Feb. 21	@ Gainesville, Fla.	
March 7	Last Chance @ Aubu	rn All Day
March 26-		ps All Day
March 28	@ Auburn	
April 22-	US Diving	All Day
April 26	TBA	

Women's Basketball

Date	Opponent Time	
82	Baltic All-Stars (exh.)	55
88	Shelen of Russia (exh.)	68
	Women's Pre-Season NIT	
91	Furman	41
66	@ Nebraska	74
	awaii Invitational @ Honolult	1
91	Marshall	62
58	Iowa State	61
77	Indiana	70
104	Samford	43
94	Akron	53
Leggs (Classic @ Las Cruces, New M	exico
Dec. 17	Stephen F. Austin	5:00
Dec. 18	New Mexico State or Elon	TBA
	@ Florida	2:00
St. Jos	seph's Invitational @ Philadel	phia
Dec. 28-	(St. Joseph's, Yale, Boston C	ollege
Dec. 29		TBA
Jan. 4	@ South Carolina	1:00
Jan. 7	Auburn	7:00
Jan. 11	@ Arkansas	2:00
Jan. 14	@ Mississippi	TBA
Jan. 18	Mississippi State	2:00
Jan. 20	@ Northwestern State	TBA
Jan. 24	Kentucky	7:00
Jan. 29	@ LSU	7:00
Feb. 1	@ Tennessee (SportSouth)	2:00
Feb. 3	LSU	7:00
Feb. 5	North Carolina-Charlotte	7:00
Feb. 8	Georgia (ESPN2)	4:00
Feb. 11	@ Auburn	TBA
	Florida	2:00
Feb. 14	@ Georgia Southern	6:00
Feb. 14 Feb. 18 Feb. 22	Georgia Southern Vanderbilt	
Feb. 14 Feb. 18 Feb. 22	@ Georgia Southern @ Vanderbilt neastern Conference Tournam	6:00 2:00

Women's Swimming

Date	Opponent	Time (CST)	
68	Delta State	39	
68	Northeast Louisiana	33	
Oct. 24-	Collegiate Aqua Spor	ts All Day	
Oct. 25	@ Fort Lauderdale, Florida		
Oct. 30-	Diving Wrold Trials	All Day	
Nov. 1	@ Athens, Georgia		
105	LSU	135	
Nov. 14-	Auburn Invitational	All Day	
Nov. 16			
Dec. 4-	United States Open	All Day	
Dec. 6	@ Indianapolis, India		
Jan. 2-	Georgia Diving	All Day	
Jan. 4	@ Athens, Georgia	,	
Jan. 3	Georgia	1:00	
Jan. 10	South Carolina	11:00	
Jan. 24	@ Florida	10:30	
Feb. 6	@ Auburn	6:00	
Feb. 15-	SEC Diving	All Day	
Feb. 17	@ Gainesville, Fla.		
Feb. 18-	SEC Championships	All Day	
Feb. 21	@ Gainesville, Fla.		
Feb. 28	Last Chance @ Aubur	n All Day	
March 19-	NCAA Championship	s All Day	
March 21	@ Minneapolis, Minn	esota	
April 22-	US Diving	All Day	
April 26	TBA		

Gymnastics

Date	Opponent Time ((CST)
Jan. 4	Excite Night (Intrasquad)	2:00
Jan. 10	@ Minnesota	7:00
Jan. 17	Georgia	7:00
Jan. 23	@ Auburn	7:30
Jan. 31	Penn State	7:00
Feb. 7	Florida	7:00
Feb. 14	@ Georgia	6:00
Feb. 20	@ Kentucky	6:30
Feb. 27	Alabama Invitational	7:00
(Arizo	na State, Massachusetts, Nor	th
	Carolina State)	
March 6	Penn State & LSU @ LSU	7:00
March 14	Utah State	7:00
March 21	SEC Championships	
	@ Baton Rouge	
April 4	NCAA Central Regional	
April 16-	NCAA Championships	
April 18	@ Los Angeles	

Men's Indoor Track

Date	Event
Jan. 16-	@ Clemson Indoor
Jan. 17	
Jan. 24	@ LSU Purple Tiger
Jan. 30-	Rocky Mountain Cup
Jan. 31	@ Colorado Springs, Colorado
Jan. 31-	Terrier Classic
Feb. 1	@ Boston
Feb. 13-	Butler Invitational
Feb. 14	@ Indianapolis, Ind.
Feb. 28-	SEC Championships
March 1	@ Baton Rouge
March 6-	USATF Championships
March 7	@ Atlanta
March 13-	NCAA Championships
March 14	@ Indianapolis, Ind.

Women's Indoor Track

Date	Event
Jan. 17	Saluki Invitational
	@ Carbondale, Ill.
Jan. 24	@ LSU Purple Tiger
Jan. 30-	Rocky Mountain Cup
Jan. 31	@ Colorado Springs, Colorado
Jan. 31-	Terrier Classic
Feb. 1	@ Boston
Feb. 13-	Butler Invitational
Feb. 14	@ Indianapolis, Ind.
Feb. 28-	SEC Championships
March 1	@ Baton Rouge
March 6-	USATF Championships
March 7	@ Atlanta
March 13-	NCAA Championships
March 14	@ Indianapolis, Ind.

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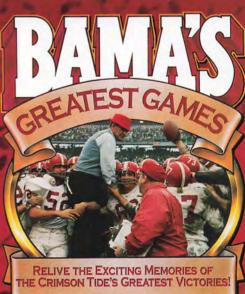
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